

Name _____

History of the Census in American Samoa

1. From what we just talked about, briefly explain the benefits of participating in the decennial census count.

2. When did American Samoa first participate in the decennial census count?

3. Complete the table below, using the data in **Activity Item 1: First U.S. Census of American Samoa**; **Activity Item 2: 2010 American Samoa Population**; and **Activity Item 3: 1960 American Samoa Population** and calculating the percentage of children enrolled in school.

Year	Population	Population, Ages 5-19 (Ages 5-20 for 1920)	Number Enrolled in School, Ages 5-19 (Ages 5-20 for 1920)	Percentage Enrolled in School, Ages 5-19 (Ages 5-20 for 1920)
1920				
1960				
2010				



- 4. Find a creative way to display your data, either with a bar graph, a line graph, a pie chart, or an infographic, representing the percentage of students enrolled in school in 1920 versus 2010.

- 5. Using the data in your table and graph, what can you infer about your findings?

- 6. How important is the decennial census to American Samoa, and how does it affect you as a student?

Home Extension

Take your worksheet home and share it with an adult in your home. Ask them how they think American Samoa’s population has changed in the past 100 years. Ask if they plan to participate in the 2020 Census and make sure they count everyone living in your home. Share their response with the class tomorrow.

Activity Item 1: First U.S. Census of American Samoa

FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920

DEPARTMENT
OF COMMERCE

BULLETIN

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
SAM. L. ROGERS, Director

CENSUS OF AMERICAN SAMOA

INTRODUCTION.

This bulletin gives the results of the census of American Samoa, which, as required by the act of March 3, 1919, providing for the Fourteenth and subsequent decennial censuses of the United States, was taken by the governor of American Samoa in accordance with plans prescribed by the Director of the Census.

Geography.—The group of South Pacific islands known as American Samoa lie in latitude $14^{\circ} 11'$ to $14^{\circ} 23'$ south and in longitude $169^{\circ} 29'$ to $170^{\circ} 52'$ west of Greenwich. A clearer idea of their location may be gained from the statement that the distance from Tutuila, the largest island of the American Samoas, to San Francisco is 4,160 nautical miles; to Honolulu, 2,263 nautical miles; and to Sidney, Australia, 2,354 nautical miles.

American Samoa includes six islands, namely, Rose, Manua, Olosega, Ofu, Tutuila, and Aunuu. Rose Island is an uninhabited coral atoll. The islands of Manua, Olosega, and Ofu are generally known as the Manua Islands, and the term "Tutuila," as commonly used, includes, in addition to the island of that name, the small island of Aunuu.

Tutuila, a densely wooded and fertile island, is the largest and most important of the American Samoas. It is 18 miles long, and its greatest width is about 6 miles. Its exact area is unknown, the estimates varying from 40.2 square miles to 77 square miles. A mountain ridge extends nearly the entire length of the island. In the southwestern part there is a broad plain on which several villages are located.

Pago Pago Bay, regarded by mariners as one of the finest harbors in the South Seas, enters the south central part of the island of Tutuila. Encircling the bay are high mountains which protect vessels anchored in the harbor from the severest storms. The United States naval station and the governor's residence, as well as the villages of Pago Pago, Fagatogo, Utulei, Fagaalu, Lepua, and Aua, are situated on this bay. The harbor may be safely navigated by vessels of the largest type.

Manua. Tau Island, is located 60 miles east of Tutuila, and has an estimated area of 14 square miles.

Very mountainous, the center having an elevation of about 2,500 feet. Tau, the largest village on Manua Island, is located on the west coast but has no harbor. Faleasao Bay, on the extreme north-

west coast, affords an excellent anchorage for vessels during the southeast trade winds.

The island of Olosega lies $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles northwest of Manua. It is separated from the island of Ofu by a narrow and shallow passage. Both of these islands are mountainous, and their combined area is about 2 square miles.

Climate.—As the Samoas lie wholly within the South Torrid Zone, the climate is tropical. During the summer months, December to February, the temperature is highest, and during the winter months, June to August, it is coolest. The highest temperature is about 88° and the lowest about 70° . Hurricanes occasionally visit these islands. The rainy season extends from December to March, the greatest average rainfall occurring in February and the least in July.

Government.—The United States Government took formal possession of American Samoa February 19, 1900. On that date the President signed an Executive order placing these islands under the control of the Navy Department. The Secretary of the Navy appoints the commandant of the naval station at Pago Pago, and the commandant also serves as governor of American Samoa. Beginning with 1905, the commandant has held a commission as governor conferred upon him by the President, following his nomination by the Secretary of the Navy, and his civil powers are derived therefrom. A secretary of native affairs, acting under the direction of the governor, has jurisdiction over native affairs. The chief customs officer and other important civil officials are appointed by the governor from the naval station personnel.

For administrative purposes American Samoa is divided into three districts: Eastern District of Tutuila, Western District of Tutuila, and Manua District. Each administrative district is ruled by a native governor appointed by the American governor. The administrative districts are divided into counties, each of which is governed by a native chief appointed by the American governor. District governors are chosen from the rank of county chief. All laws are enacted by the American governor and enforced by the native governors and chiefs. Health regulations, when approved by the governor, have the force of laws. The family is the unit of native Samoan society, and the right of suffrage is restricted to the heads of families, the "matais."

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Activity Item 1: First U.S. Census of American Samoa (Cont.)

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POPULATION.

Censuses of population.—The census of 1920 is the first ever taken in American Samoa under the supervision of the United States Bureau of the Census. Previous enumerations of the inhabitants of these islands have been made under the direction of the governor. With the exception of the censuses of 1912 and 1916, the published results of these enumerations show only the total population by administrative districts. The census of 1916 showed the total population of Tutuila and the Manua Islands, separately, by sex. At the census of 1912 the population, by sex, was reported for each administrative district and village. The present census gives the population of each district, county, and village, classified according to race and sex (see Table 11), and the total population classified by age and marital condition, besides data as to school attendance, illiteracy, and occupations.

Population growth.—The following table shows the population as enumerated by successive censuses which have been taken since the United States came into control of this territory:

TABLE 1.—POPULATION, BY DISTRICTS: 1900 TO 1920.

YEAR.	POPULATION.				
	Total.	Tutuila.			Manua District.
		Total.	Eastern District.	Western District.	
1920.....	8,056	6,185	3,777	2,408	1,871
1916.....	7,550	5,885	(1)	(1)	1,665
1912.....	7,261	5,454	3,186	2,268	1,797
1908.....	6,790	4,925	3,018	1,907	1,855
1906.....	5,888	4,193	2,441	1,752	1,695
1901.....	5,563	3,990	2,342	1,618	1,403
1900.....	5,679	3,923	2,221	1,702	1,756

¹ Population not separately reported.

When the United States assumed control of the islands in 1900, the total population, as enumerated by the local census, was 5,679. As the recent census shows a population of 8,056, the increase since the American occupation has been 2,377, or about 42 per cent, in 20 years. The increase in the 12 years between 1900 and 1912 was 1,572, or nearly 28 per cent, and that in the 8 years between 1912 and 1920 was 805, or about 11 per cent. Most of this population growth has taken place in Tutuila, the population of Manua having increased but little. The decrease in the population of Manua between 1912 and 1916, as shown by Table 1, is noteworthy as a reminder of the destructive hurricane which visited that island in January, 1915, and which, although it did not cause any great loss of life, swept away or destroyed so much of the vegetation of the island that it was found expedient to transport about two-thirds of the inhabitants to the island of Tutuila that they

might be adequately fed and properly cared for. The people thus transported were distributed among the different families in Tutuila, where they remained for several months.

Race.—The total population of American Samoa enumerated in the census of 1920 included only 41 white persons. The native Polynesians constituted over 96 per cent of the total and those of "mixed" race about 3 per cent, the latter being for the most part the children of white fathers and Polynesian mothers.

TABLE 2.—POPULATION, BY RACE: 1920.

RACE.	POPULATION: 1920.	
	Number.	Per cent distribution.
All races.....	8,056	100.0
Polynesian.....	7,778	96.5
Mixed.....	233	2.9
White.....	41	0.5
Other ¹	6	0.1

¹ Includes 3 Japanese, 1 Chinese, and 2 Negroes.

Sex.—In the population of American Samoa in 1920 there were 4,139 males and 3,917 females, a ratio of 105.7 males to 100 females, which is about the same as the sex ratio shown for the total population of the United States in 1910, 106 to 100, but is larger than the corresponding ratio for the native white population of the United States, 102.7 to 100.

TABLE 3.—POPULATION, BY SEX: 1920, 1916, AND 1912.

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND SEX.	POPULATION.		
	1920	1916	1912
American Samoa, total.....	8,056	7,550	7,251
Males.....	4,139	3,939	3,338
Females.....	3,917	3,611	3,415
Tutuila Island, ¹ total.....	6,185	5,885	5,454
Males.....	3,181	3,089	2,872
Females.....	3,004	2,796	2,582
Manua Islands, ² total.....	1,871	1,665	1,797
Males.....	958	860	864
Females.....	913	815	833

¹ Includes the island of Anunui. ² Includes the islands of Olosega and Ofu.

Age.—Registration of births was not compulsory in American Samoa prior to the establishment of the American government 20 years ago; and as comparatively few of the older natives know how old they are, the census enumerators were obliged to estimate the ages of most Samoans over 20 years of age. The reported ages of the population under 20 years are believed to be fairly accurate and the ages of the older people are probably sufficiently accurate for a classification by broad age groups.



Activity Item 1: First U.S. Census of American Samoa (Cont.)

CENSUS OF AMERICAN SAMOA.

The following table shows the population of American Samoa by sex and age periods:

TABLE 4.—POPULATION, BY SEX AND AGE: 1920.

AGE PERIOD.	NUMBER.			PER CENT DISTRIBUTION.		
	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.
All ages.....	8,056	4,139	3,917	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years.....	1,271	641	630	15.8	15.5	16.1
5 to 9 years.....	1,102	567	535	13.7	13.5	13.9
10 to 14 years.....	773	410	363	9.6	9.9	9.3
15 to 19 years.....	711	379	332	8.8	9.2	8.5
20 to 24 years.....	690	338	352	8.6	8.1	9.0
25 to 34 years.....	1,460	686	774	18.1	16.6	19.8
35 to 44 years.....	983	554	429	12.2	13.4	11.0
45 to 54 years.....	548	310	238	6.8	7.5	6.1
55 to 64 years.....	314	158	156	3.9	3.8	4.0
65 years and over.....	204	108	96	2.5	2.6	2.5

There was a much higher proportion of children in the population of American Samoa in 1920 than in the population of continental United States in 1910. Thus, in 1920, nearly 16 per cent (15.8) of the inhabitants of American Samoa were children under 5 years of age, while only 11.6 per cent of the population of continental United States were under 5 years of age in 1910; the proportion under 15 years was 39.1 per cent in Samoa, as compared with 32.1 per cent in continental United States. The age composition of the population of the United States is, of course, affected by the presence of a large immigrant population, consisting mainly of adults. This element is not present in the population of Samoa. But the main explanation of the relatively large proportion of children in Samoa is probably to be found in a high birth rate accompanied by a comparatively high death rate, a condition which is characteristic of most primitive races and naturally results in a large number of children and a comparatively small number of old people.

Nearly 48 per cent of the inhabitants of American Samoa were 15 to 44 years of age, which was about the same proportion as that for continental United States in 1910—48.8 per cent. The percentage of inhabitants 45 years of age and over was considerably lower in Samoa in 1920 (13.2) than it was in continental United States in 1910 (18.9).

Marital condition.—Nearly 40 per cent (39.9) of the male inhabitants of American Samoa 15 years of age and over were returned as single in 1920, as contrasted with 27.2 per cent of the female population of those ages. This difference is indicative of the fact that women in Samoa, as elsewhere, marry much earlier in life than men. Thus the figures show that 48 per cent of the females 20 to 24 years of age were married, as compared with 20.5 per cent of the males at the same age period. It is not until the age groups over 44 years are reached that the percentage married among males exceeds that among females, this difference being due to the high percentage of widowed among females in these age groups.

In Samoa there were 113 widowers and 287 widows reported in the census. An excess of widows is not

peculiar to Samoa, being a natural consequence of the fact already referred to that women marry at an earlier age than men. The wife being, therefore, as a rule younger than the husband, the marriage is more likely to be terminated by his death than by hers.

TABLE 5.—ADULT POPULATION, BY SEX, AGE, AND MARITAL CONDITION: 1920.

SEX AND MARITAL CONDITION.	POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER: 1920.							
	Total.	15 to 19 years.	20 to 24 years.	25 to 34 years.	35 to 44 years.	45 to 54 years.	55 to 64 years.	65 years and over.
NUMBER.								
Males.....	2,531	379	336	689	554	310	158	108
Single.....	1,010	368	292	255	82	27	9	7
Married.....	1,364	11	69	401	437	264	124	98
Widowed.....	113		9	25	21	25	25	33
Divorced.....	39		4	19	10	6		
Not reported.....	5		1	2		2		
Females.....	2,379	332	354	774	429	238	156	96
Single.....	647	291	175	134	25	16	5	1
Married.....	1,402	38	170	594	334	154	63	29
Widowed.....	287	2	4	25	40	94	87	65
Divorced.....	41	1	5	20	9		1	1
Not reported.....	2		1	1				
PER CENT DISTRIBUTION.								
Males.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single.....	39.9	97.1	78.0	37.2	14.8	8.7	5.7	6.5
Married.....	53.9	2.9	20.5	58.5	78.9	81.9	78.5	63.9
Widowed.....	4.5			1.3	4.5	6.8	15.8	30.6
Divorced.....	1.5		1.2	2.8	1.8	1.9		
Not reported.....	0.2		0.3	0.3		0.6		
Females.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single.....	27.2	87.7	49.4	17.3	5.8	6.7	3.2	1.0
Married.....	58.9	11.4	48.0	76.7	82.5	84.7	80.4	30.2
Widowed.....	12.1	0.6	1.1	3.2	9.3	26.9	55.8	67.7
Divorced.....	1.7	0.3	1.4	2.6	2.1	1.7	0.6	1.0
Not reported.....	0.1			0.1	0.2			

The total figures indicate nothing abnormal or peculiar in the marital relationship in Samoa, the percentage in each marital class being about the same as that for the population of continental United States in 1910, as given in Table 6 on the next page.

A comparison by age periods, however, brings out the fact that in the population above 35 years of age there is a considerably smaller percentage of single persons of each sex in Samoa than in the United States; also a considerably larger percentage of widowed. The comparison may be affected by the large element of error in the reported ages of the Samoan population, but doubtless among a primitive people, such as the Samoans, marriages take place at an earlier age than among a more highly civilized people, and relatively fewer people remain permanently single.

It may be noted that the percentages representing persons reported as divorced for both males and females were somewhat higher than the corresponding percentages in the census of the United States for 1910. But there is reason to believe that the number of divorced persons reported in the census

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CENSUS OF AMERICAN SAMOA.

of the United States is considerably below the actual number¹; and for that matter, the census enumerators in Samoa found that there was likewise some reluctance on the part of divorced Samoans to report their true marital status.

TABLE 6.—PER CENT DISTRIBUTION, BY MARITAL CONDITION, OF THE ADULT POPULATION OF AMERICAN SAMOA AND THE UNITED STATES.

MARITAL CONDITION.	PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER.			
	Males.		Females.	
	United States: 1910.	American Samoa: 1920.	United States: 1910.	American Samoa: 1920.
All classes.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single.....	38.7	39.9	20.7	27.2
Married.....	55.9	53.9	68.9	68.9
Widowed.....	4.5	4.5	10.6	12.1
Divorced.....	0.5	1.5	0.6	1.7
Not reported.....	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1

School attendance.—In 1920, as shown in Table 7, nearly 70 per cent (69.9) of the population 5 to 20 years of age, inclusive, reported that they had attended school at some time since September 1, 1919. This percentage is considerably higher than the corresponding percentage of school attendance in continental United States (59.2) shown by the census of 1910. School attendance in the Samoan Islands, however, does not signify all that it does in most American communities,

as is evident from the following description of the Samoan schools taken from a report of the governor of Samoa published in 1916:

The foundation of the school system of American Samoa is the parish school, conducted by the native pastors of the various denominations. These schools are of varying efficiency, but none of them could be classed as good. The children go to these schools four days of the week, for about one to three hours a day, depending upon the energy of the pastor. There is no governmental supervision, except that by a law all children between the ages of 6 and 13 years are required to attend school regularly. The subjects taught are reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, grammar, and geography, with a large proportion of time given to religious instruction. The textbooks are printed in the Samoan language. It is said that all Samoans are able to read and to write, but their education is extremely limited, except as to the Bible, with which they are more familiar than is the average American.

Only two-thirds (66.4 per cent) of the female children 5 to 20 years of age attended school, as compared with nearly three-fourths (73.1 per cent) of the male population of those ages. The difference in the proportions of the sexes who attended school was even more striking in the age group 15 to 20 years—63.4 per cent for males and 51.7 for females; and somewhat higher proportions of males than females were found in the younger age groups also. As there was no governmental provision in American Samoa for enforcing school attendance, it is probable that many of the girls of school age were kept at home to assist their mothers in the care of younger children.

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN ATTENDING SCHOOL: 1920.

AGE PERIOD.	BOTH SEXES.						MALES.			FEMALES.		
	Total.	Attending school.		Total.	Attending school.		Total.	Attending school.				
		Number.	Per cent.		Number.	Per cent.		Number.	Per cent.			
5 to 20 years of age.....	2,911	2,034	69.9	1,510	1,104	73.1	1,401	930	66.4			
5 to 9 years of age.....	1,102	742	67.3	557	386	69.3	545	356	65.3			
10 to 14 years of age.....	773	693	89.7	410	374	91.2	363	319	87.9			
15 to 20 years of age.....	1,036	599	57.8	543	344	63.4	493	265	51.7			

Statistics of school attendance in American Samoa in 1912 and in 1920 are presented in Table 8. The figures for 1912 probably represent actual school enrollment on a given date. School attendance of female children increased 11.1 per cent during this period, while that of males increased less than 1 per cent (0.5).

TABLE 8.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDING SCHOOL: 1920 AND 1912.

SEX.	ATTENDING SCHOOL.			
	1920	1912 ¹	Increase.	
			Number.	Per cent.
Both sexes.....	2,034	1,936	98	5.1
Males.....	1,104	1,099	5	0.5
Females.....	930	837	93	11.1

¹ General Report of the Governor of American Samoa, dated June 22, 1912, p. 27.

Illiteracy.—In 1920, 96 persons in every 100 of the population 10 years of age and over in American Samoa were reported as able to read and write. This condition is due largely to the educational zeal of the Christian missionaries who established religious schools in the Samoan villages as early as 1830.

TABLE 9.—NUMBER OF PERSONS RETURNED AS ILLITERATE: 1920.

AGE.	Both sexes.	Males.	Females.
Population 10 years of age and over.....	5,683	2,941	2,742
Number illiterate.....	229	107	132
Per cent illiterate.....	4.2	3.6	4.8
Number illiterate:			
10 to 14 years.....	33	15	18
15 to 19 years.....	4	1	3
20 to 24 years.....	6	5	1
25 to 34 years.....	30	13	17
35 to 44 years.....	30	16	14
45 to 54 years.....	33	12	21
55 to 64 years.....	35	15	20
65 years and over.....	68	30	38

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920 Bulletin

<https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1920/bulletins/demographics/census-of-american-samoa.pdf>



Activity Item 2: 2010 American Samoa Population

Age Group	Population	Percentage of Total Population
Total population	55,519	100%
Under 5 years	6,611	11.9%
5 to 9 years	6,535	11.8%
10 to 14 years	6,279	11.3%
15 to 19 years	6,297	11.3%
20 to 24 years	3,890	7.0%
25 to 29 years	3,325	6.0%
30 to 34 years	3,506	6.3%
35 to 39 years	3,604	6.5%
40 to 44 years	3,602	6.5%
45 to 49 years	3,387	6.1%
50 to 54 years	2,678	4.8%
55 to 59 years	2,057	3.7%
60 to 64 years	1,481	2.7%
65 to 69 years	957	1.7%
70 to 74 years	653	1.2%
75 to 79 years	340	0.6%
80 to 84 years	207	0.4%
85 years and over	110	0.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, American Samoa

https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/DEC/10_DPAS/ASDP1

Education Level	Enrollment	Percentage of Total Enrollment
Total enrolled in school (age 3 and over)	21,196	100%
Pre-kindergarten	1,465	6.9%
Kindergarten	1,829	8.6%
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	10,151	47.9%
High school (grades 9-12)	5,384	25.4%
College, graduate or professional school	2,367	11.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, American Samoa

https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/DEC/10_DPAS/ASDP2





Activity Item 3: 1960 American Samoa Population

Age Group	Population	Percentage of Total Population
Total population	20,051	100%
Under 5 years	3,709	18.5%
5 to 9 years	3,244	16.2%
10 to 14 years	2,993	14.9%
15 to 19 years	2,182	10.9%
20 to 24 years	1,444	7.2%
25 to 29 years	1,154	5.8%
30 to 34 years	1,107	5.5%
35 to 39 years	1,030	5.1%
40 to 44 years	814	4.1%
45 to 49 years	688	3.4%
50 to 54 years	474	2.4%
55 to 59 years	425	2.1%
60 to 64 years	247	1.2%
65 to 69 years	226	1.1%
70 to 74 years	147	0.7%
75 to 79 years	87	0.4%
80 to 84 years	38	0.2%
85 years and over	42	0.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1960 Census, American Samoa

<http://www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/32111904v1p54-57.zip> (Chapter 3, page 30-31)

Education Level	Enrollment	Percentage of Total Enrollment
Total enrolled in school (ages 5-34)	6,451	100%
Pre-kindergarten	N/A	N/A
Kindergarten	N/A	N/A
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	5,942	92.1%
High school (grades 9-12)	456	7.1%
College, graduate or professional school	8	0.1%
Unaccounted	45	0.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1960 Census, American Samoa

<http://www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/32111904v1p54-57.zip> (Chapter 3, page 30-31)